[English]

Alleged Corruption Charges Against Officials of GIC

3271. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been charges of corruption and other acts of maleficence levelled against the official and the lower level employees of the General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the nature of such complaints received during the last three years and in the current year so far;

(c) whether any action has been taken to deal with these complaints and end the ongoing corruption in the insurance sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). It has been reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its subsidiary companies that they receive from time to time complaints against officers/employees of the industry pertaining to misappropriation of premium/funds; ante-dating of insurance cover notes; payment of irregular claims; misuse of staff benefit schemes; and fabricated travel expense/tour bills. Such complaints having verifiable facts are investigated by the concerned departments of the GIC and its subsidiaries in consultation with the Vigilance Department. Based on the findings of the investigation, disciplinary action is initiated and penalties are imposed as per Conduct, Discipline & Appeals Rules of the Industry. If necessary, CBI is also involved in the investigation and the delinquent employees are placed under suspension, where serious charges of embezzlement and corruption are made. Preventive vigilance steps like surprise inspections are carried out periodically.

Problem of Narcotic

3272. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to seek cooperation of the neighbouring countries regarding the problem concerning Narcotics; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A co-operative machinery between India and other SAARC countries exists in the form of SAARC Durg Offences Monitoring Desk. Direct operational contact is established whenever situation demands.

India has entered into a bilateral meeting arrangement with the Govt. of Pakistan under which regular meetings at policy level and operational level are being held to chalk out strategies and exchange intelligence regarding drug trafficking.

India an Myanmar have a bilateral agreement under which regular meetings are taking place both at the policy and field level for mutual cooperation in drug related matters.

Close ties are also maintained at the operational level between Government of India and Nepal.

Joint Venture with Taiwan

3273. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) number of proposals of Joint Venture between India and Taiwan approved during the last two years; and

(b) the details of the approved proposals alongwith the total investment made therein?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). 29 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs.11.25 crores have been approved during the period from 1.1.95 to 30.9.96 between India and Taiwan.

Details of such proposals viz. Name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

Trade Fair in Delhi

3274. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITPO has organized a trade fair in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether entry fee for the said fair had been doubled;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the number of visitors to the fair came down as a result thereof;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to bring down the entry fee in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The entry fee into Pragati Maidan was Rs.5.00 for adults and Rs.3.00 for children earlier. It